

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rail car mover apparatus for a loader vehicle, the loader vehicle comprising ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails, a drive to rotate the ground tires, loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle, and a tool attachment mechanism at a lower front portion of the loader arms adapted for attachment to a tool such that the tool can be raised and lowered by the loader arms, the apparatus comprising:

a front wheel bracket adapted for attachment to a front end of the loader vehicle;

a pair of front wheel arms pivotally attached to the front wheel bracket about a substantially horizontal front pivot axis and extending forward from the front wheel bracket, and a pair of front rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails wherein a front rail wheel is rotatably attached to a front end of each front wheel arm;

a front actuator operative to move the front wheel arms up and down about the front pivot axis;

a rear wheel bracket adapted for attachment to a rear end of the loader vehicle;

a pair of rear wheel arms pivotally attached to the rear wheel bracket about a substantially horizontal rear pivot axis and extending rearward from the rear wheel bracket, and a pair of rear rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails wherein a rear rail wheel is rotatably attached to a rear end of each rear wheel arm; and

a rear actuator operative to move the rear wheel arms up and down about the rear pivot axis;

a coupler adapter adapted at a rear end thereof for attachment to the tool attachment mechanism and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car hitch;

where in operation the ground tires bear against the railroad rails to propel the loader vehicle along the railroad rails, and the front and rear rail wheels rotate freely in response to movement of the loader vehicle along the railroad rails; and

wherein the loader vehicle can be converted to ground operation for maneuvering and manipulating a tool by removing the front wheel arms, front rail wheels, and coupler adapter and attaching the tool to the tool attachment mechanism.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least one actuator comprises an extendable cylinder.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the extendable cylinder is operated by a pressurized fluid.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the front actuator comprises a pair of front extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each front extendable cylinder moves one of the front wheel arms.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the rear actuator comprises a pair of rear extendable cylinders operated by a pressurized fluid, and wherein each rear extendable cylinder moves one of the rear wheel arms.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4 further comprising a pressurized fluid source adapted to be attached to the loader vehicle and powered by the loader vehicle..
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein a pressure of the pressurized fluid can be adjusted.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the front wheel arms are adapted for removable attachment to the front wheel bracket.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the front wheel bracket is adapted for removable attachment to the front end of the loader vehicle.
10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the loader vehicle is a skid steer loader vehicle.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tool attachment mechanism is a quick-attach mechanism operative to releasably attach a tool to the loader arms, and wherein the coupler adapter is configured at a rear end thereof to attach to the quick-attach mechanism in a manner substantially the same as the tool.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A rail car mover apparatus for a loader vehicle, the loader vehicle comprising ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails, a drive to rotate the ground tires, ~~and~~ loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle and operative to move up and down, and a tool attachment mechanism on a front end of the loader arms, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of front rail wheels;

means to rotatably attach-a-the pair of front rail wheels to a front end of the loader vehicle such that the front rail wheels are spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and such that the front rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a front actuator;

a pair of rear rail wheels;

means to rotatably attach-a-the pair of rear rail wheels to a rear end of the loader vehicle such that the rear rail wheels are spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and such that the rear rail wheels can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a rear actuator;

a coupler adapter adapted at a rear end thereof for attachment to-a ~~front portion of the loader arms~~ the tool attachment mechanism and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car hitch;

where in operation the ground tires bear against the railroad rails to propel the loader vehicle along the railroad rails, and the front and rear rail wheels rotate freely in response to movement of the loader vehicle along the railroad rails;

wherein the loader vehicle can be converted to conventional operation by removing the front wheel arms and coupler adapter.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein at least one actuator comprises an extendable cylinder further comprising a pressurized fluid source powered by the loader vehicle, and wherein the front actuator comprises an extendable cylinder operative to extend and retract in response to pressure exerted in the extendable cylinder by pressurized fluid from the pressurized fluid source and wherein the pressure in the front actuator can be varied such that proportions of vehicle weight carried by the front rail wheels relative to the front ground tires can be varied.

26. (New) A skid steer loader vehicle apparatus adapted for conventional use and for use to move rail cars on a set of railroad rails, the apparatus comprising:

a loader vehicle having front and rear ground tires spaced to roll along a pair of railroad rails and a drive operative to rotate the ground tires;

loader arms extending forward of the loader vehicle and operative to move up and down, and a tool attachment mechanism on a front end of the loader arms;

a pair of front rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and removably attached to a front end of the loader vehicle such that the front rail wheels can rotate freely and can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a front actuator;

a pair of rear rail wheels spaced to engage the pair of railroad rails and attached to a rear end of the loader vehicle such that the rear rail wheels can rotate freely and can move up and down in response to forces exerted by a rear actuator;

a coupler adapter adapted at a rear end thereof for releasable attachment to the tool attachment mechanism and adapted at a front end thereof for coupling to a rail car hitch;

a tool adapted for releasable attachment to the tool attachment mechanism;

where in operation the ground tires bear against the railroad rails to propel the loader vehicle along the railroad rails, and the front and rear rail wheels rotate in response to movement of the loader vehicle along the railroad rails and

wherein the loader vehicle can be converted to conventional use by removing the front rail wheels and coupler adapter, installing the tool on the tool attachment mechanism.

27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 26 further comprising a pressurized fluid source powered by the loader vehicle, and wherein the front actuator comprises an extendable cylinder operative to extend and retract in response to pressure exerted in the extendable cylinder by pressurized fluid from the pressurized fluid source.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the rear actuator comprises an extendable cylinder operative to extend and retract in response to pressure exerted in the extendable cylinder by pressurized fluid from the pressurized fluid source.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the pressure in the front actuator can be varied such that proportions of vehicle weight carried by the front rail wheels relative to the front ground tires can be varied.